

inshore and shallow waters are developed? Can fishing pressures be increased? Can edible but presently not marketed forms take up the slack? Can we turn from being merely a predator to becoming a knowledgeable steward of the riches of our waters?

At least half the world's people lack sufficient animal protein in their diet. The production of carbohydrates on the land has been greatly increased and can be further increased to provide sufficient calories for human needs. The importance of the sea is in providing animal protein. The sea is already supplying a major share of the protein eaten by many people in the world and is an obvious source for additional supplies. Fundamental knowledge of the ocean and its biota is necessary in order to use our marine resources wisely.

The Committee feels that a new approach to the problems of conservation is needed. In general, conservationists have dealt with problems of maintaining productivity of fishery resources with a negative rather than a positive philosophy. The emphasis has been on limiting the sizes or quantities of fish and shellfish harvested, or on limiting fishing to certain seasons, areas or methods. This philosophy assumes that the only influence affecting fishery resources that can be controlled is man, and that a population of marine organisms cannot be increased beyond a point established by natural conditions.

It is time for a positive, active approach: What can we do (not what must we stop doing) to increase production of seafoods? We should cultivate the sea with the same attitude with which we cultivate the land. The massive biological problems associated with such a broad approach are within the purview of the International Biological Program. As information which will be the scientific basis of conservation action becomes available, it is urgent that the practical application should be as immediate as the socio-economic situation will permit.